

a letter which I wrote to Mr. Maskell, Honorary Secretary of the Observatory Committee, dated March 27th. I enclose this copy under the present cover.

4. In a letter addressed to Admiral Wilson, intended for the perusal of Archdeacon Wilson, I adverted to the history of the observations of Paramatta, Edinburgh, Glasgow, all which were for a long time in a state of discreditable torpor.

5. I may add that (unless assisted by some favourable chance) the expense of procuring an Observer from England will be greater than the colonists appear to contemplate. The salary, £400, offered some years ago for an Observer at Paramatta, was universally treated as insufficient to secure the services of a good Observer.

Robert W. Herbert, Esq.

I have, &c.,
G. R. AIRY.

No. 56.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. the Earl of KIMBERLEY to
Governor Sir G. F. BOWEN, G.C.M.G.

(No. 32.)

SIR,—

Downing Street, 13th April, 1872.

I have the honor to inform you that Her Majesty will not be advised to exercise her power of disallowance with respect to the Act of the Legislature of Zealand entitled "An Act to provide for the Sale of Land in the Province of Wellington on Deferred Payment, and for the setting apart of Land in the Province for Special Settlement," a transcript of which accompanied your Despatch No. 121, of the 19th of December, 1871.

I have, &c.,
KIMBERLEY.

The Officer Administering the Government
of New Zealand.

No. 57.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. the Earl of KIMBERLEY to
Governor Sir G. F. BOWEN, G.C.M.G.

(Circular.)

SIR,—

Downing Street, 18th April, 1872.

I transmit to you copies of a Report received through the Board of Treasury from the Receiver and Accountant-General of the Post Office, with copies of a Statement of the Amounts chargeable to the several Australian Colonies and New Zealand on account of the Mail Packet Service for the year ending 31st December, 1872, together with an Account Current showing the whole balance which will be due from each Colony on 31st December next.

I request that you will give instructions for a remittance to be made of one-half of the amount due up to the 31st December next from the Colony under your Government, as soon after the 30th June as possible, and that the balance then remaining due may be remitted after the expiration of each subsequent quarter.

I have, &c.,
KIMBERLEY.

Governor Sir G. F. Bowen, G.C.M.G.

Enclosure in No. 57.

REPORT from the RECEIVER and ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL of the POST OFFICE, explanatory of the Account against the AUSTRALIAN COLONIES and NEW ZEALAND for Post Office Packet Service during the Year ending 31st December, 1872.

THE account of the amount chargeable on the Australian Colonies and New Zealand for Mail Packet Service during the year 1872 is annexed.

The amount of subsidy payable to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for the service between Point-de-Galle and Sydney having been reduced by £500 from 1st August, 1871, in consideration of the withdrawal of Naval Agents from that line, the Colonial moiety of the cost of the service for the current year has been reduced from £64,750 to £64,500; and an allowance has been made to the Colonies on account of the sum deducted from the subsidy for the period from 1st August to 31st December, 1871.

Three of the Colonies—namely, South Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia—have remitted in full the amount of the balances due upon the previous account.

The arrears due from the other Colonies have been carried to their debit in the present account.

In the case of Victoria the arrears amount to £26,117 10s. 1d., being one-half of the balance due to 31st December, 1871. The attention of the Government of the Colony should, I submit, be called to this arrear.

GEO. CHETWYND,
Receiver and Accountant-General.

General Post Office, London, 12th April, 1872.